

California GARDEN

JULY-AUGUST 2002

Volume 93 No. 4

\$2.00



HORTICULTURAL CALENDAR

NOW OPEN

BALBOA PARK'S BOTANICAL BUILDING

Regular hours Friday-Wednesday 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Closed on Thursdays and City holidays.

June 15-July 7

2002 SAN DIEGO COUNTY FAIR Flower & Garden Show "Elvis. A Tribute to the King of Rock & Roll." Mon.-Fri. 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Sat.-Sun. 10 a.m.-11 p.m. Closed Monday, June 17 and 24. 24-hour info line 858/793-5555 or www.sdfair.com.

July 1-August 19 Mon.

QUAIL BOTANICAL GARDENS Plein-air Botanical Painting Class. "Exploration in Watercolor." 9:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m., 8 week series \$115 members, \$130 non-members. Register at 760/436-3036.

July 6 Sat.

★SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION

LIBRARY open from 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Mon.-Fri., also the first and third Saturdays. Members of SDFA can check out books. (Membership \$10 a year, includes magazine.) Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room 105. 619/232-5762 or visit www.sdfloreal.org.

July 6 Sat.

WALTER ANDERSEN NURSERY CLASS on Subtropical Fruit. 9:00 a.m. at 3642 Enterprise St., San Diego. 619/224-8271. OR Staghorn Ferns: Remounting and Care, 9:30 a.m. at 12755 Danielson Ct, Poway. 858/513-4900. Free.

July 6-7 Sat.-Sun.

HON NON BO ASSOCIATION SHOW

Sat. 11:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Sun. 10:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room 101. Free.

July 6-7 Sat.-Sun.

THE HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDENS

National Cactus and Succulent Show. Over 1000 award-winning plants. 10:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. both days. 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino. 626/405-2141. General admission.

July 7 Sun.

QUAIL BOTANICAL GARDENS Summer Concert Series, 5:00-8:00 p.m. \$18 members, \$20 non-members. Series tickets for all four concerts are \$72. Ticket price includes light supper, dessert, and coffee. No-host bar available. Attendees are requested not to bring beverages, food, chairs, blankets, or coolers. Tickets available at the Gardens' Gift Shop and the Ecke Building office. 230 Quail Gardens Dr., Encinitas. 760/436-3036 or www.qbgardens.com.

July 11 Thurs.

THE HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDENS

Garden Talk and Plant Sale. "Estate Gardens of California." 2:30 p.m. Author and Horticulturist Karen Dardick will discuss and sign copies of her new book.

1151 Oxford Road, San Marino. 626/405-2100. Free.

July 13 Sat.

SAN DIEGO NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

Basic Coil Basket Class. 9:00 a.m.-noon. For ages 12 and up. Complete a 3-inch basket in just one class! \$25 members, \$30 non-members. Register at 619/232-3821 ext. 203 or www.sdnhm.org.

July 13 Sat.

WALTER ANDERSEN NURSERY CLASS on Water Gardening. 9:00 a.m. at 3642 Enterprise St., San Diego. 619/224-8271. OR Bonsai: An Introduction, 9:30 a.m. at 12755 Danielson Court, Poway. 858/513-4900. Free.

July 13-14 Sat.-Sun.

THE HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDENS

"Chamber Music Concert." Southwest Chamber Music's Summer Concert Series. 7:30 p.m. Tickets \$30 or Saturday pre-concert dinner \$45. For reservations 800/726-7147 or www.huntington.org.

July 15-19 Mon.-Fri.

SAN DIEGO NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

Children's Summer Camp "Up a Tree." 1-4 p.m. Open to grades 3 to 4. Come to Balboa Park to investigate the shady world of trees and enjoy a week of science activities, games, outdoor experiments, and "tree-mendous" crafts. \$69 members, \$79 non-members. Register at 619/232-3821 ext. 203 or www.sdnhm.org.

July 20 Sat.

★SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION

LIBRARY will be open. See July 6 for details.

July 20 Sat.

WALTER ANDERSEN NURSERY CLASS on Herbs. 9:00 a.m. at 3642 Enterprise St., San Diego. 619/224-8271. OR Container Gardening with Perennials, 9:30 a.m. at 12755 Danielson Court, Poway. 858/513-4900. Free.

July 20-21 Sat.-Sun.

NON BO CLUB Show and Sale. Both days 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room 101. Information 619/530-2319. Free.

July 21 Sun.

QUAIL BOTANICAL GARDENS Summer Concert. See July 7 for details.

July 27 Sat.

SAN DIEGO NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM Tool Basket Class. 9:00 a.m.-1 p.m. For ages 12 and up. Complete a small 5-by-8 inch tool basket using flat reeds in just one class! \$25 members, \$30 non-members. Register at 619/232-3821 ext. 203 or www.sdnhm.org.

Continued on page 100



Published by
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for 92 Years

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VOLUME 93

NUMBER 4

THE MAGAZINE FOR THE HANDS-ON GARDENER

JULY-AUGUST 2002

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COVER photograph by James Dery of DBF Photographic of a Martha Washington *pelargonium*

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WALTER ANDERSEN NURSERY, 224-8271, 3642 Enterprise St., San Diego CA 92110
WALTER ANDERSEN NURSERY, 513-4900, 12755 Danielson Court, Poway CA 92064-6847

FLOWER SHOWS: Show chairman contact *California Garden*, 619/232-5762 if you want the magazine sold at your show.

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**"HORTICULTURAL CALENDAR" CONTINUED
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July 27 Sat.

WALTER ANDERSEN NURSERY CLASS on Summer Fruit Tasting 9:00 a.m. at 3642 Enterprise St., San Diego. 619/224-8271. OR Summer Rose Care, 9:30 a.m. at 12755 Danielson Ct, Poway. 858/513-4900. Free.

July 27-28 SAN DIEGO ORCHID SOCIETY

Summer Mini Show and Sale. Sat. noon-4:00 p.m., Sun. 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room 101. Free.

July 27-28 Sat.-Sun.

THE HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDENS
"Chamber Music Concert." See July 13-14 for details.

August 3 Sat.

WALTER ANDERSEN NURSERY CLASS on Fall Rose Preparation. 9:00 a.m. at 3642 Enterprise St., San Diego. 619/224-8271. OR Plumarias Including Grafting, 9:30 a.m. at 12755 Danielson Court, Poway. 858/513-4900. Free.

August 3-4 SAN DIEGO DAHLIA SOCIETY

Show. All are welcome to bring in blooms for display on Fri. August 2, or Sat. between 8:00-10:00 a.m. Judging is between 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Lunch is provided for exhibitors. Contact David Tooley at 858/672-2593 or DJSJ21543@aol.com for details. Open to public Sat. 1-4 p.m. and Sun. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room 101. Free.

August 4 Sun.

QUAIL BOTANICAL GARDENS Summer Concert. See July 7 for details.

August 10 Sat.

SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION TOUR to Little Tokyo in Los Angeles. \$40 members, \$45 non-members. See page 103 for information.

August 10 Sat.

WALTER ANDERSEN NURSERY CLASS on Staghorn Ferns. 9:00 a.m. at 3642 Enterprise St., San Diego. 619/224-8271. OR Building Your Own Water Feature, 9:30 a.m. at 12755 Danielson Ct., Poway. 858/513-4900. Free.

August 10-11 Sat.-Sun.

THE HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDENS
"Chamber Music Concert." See July 13-14 for details.

August 17 Sat.

QUAIL BOTANICAL GARDENS Third Annual Gala "A Botanical Extravaganza Honoring Paul Ecke Jr." 5:30 p.m. Call for reservations 760/436-3036.

August 17 Sat.

WALTER ANDERSEN NURSERY CLASS on Plumeria. 9:00 a.m. at 3642 Enterprise St., San Diego. 619/224-8271. OR Beautiful hanging Baskets & Flower Pots, 9:30 a.m. at 12755 Danielson Ct., Poway. 858/513-4900. Free.

August 17-18 SAN DIEGO FERN SOCIETY

Show and Sale. Show starts Sat. noon-5:00 p.m., Sun. 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. The sale is 10 a.m.-5 p.m. both days. Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room 101. Free.

August 24 Sat.

WALTER ANDERSEN NURSERY CLASS on Bonsai. 9:00 a.m. at 3642 Enterprise St., San Diego. 619/224-8271. OR Topiaries, Training & Making Your Own, 9:30 a.m. at 12755 Danielson Court, Poway. 858/513-4900. Free.

August 24-25 Sat.-Sun.

SAN DIEGO TURTLE & TORTOISE SOCIETY Show, Sat. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sun. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room 101. Free.

August 24-25 Sat.-Sun.

THE HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDENS
"Chamber Music Concert." See July 13-14 for details.

August 31 Sat.

WALTER ANDERSEN NURSERY CLASS on Containers & Color Plants. 9:00 a.m. at 3642 Enterprise St., San Diego. 619/224-8271. OR Keeping House Plants Alive, 9:30 a.m. at 12755 Danielson Court, Poway. 858/513-4900. Free.

August 31-Sept. 1 Sat.-Sun.

LOS ANGELES INTERNATIONAL FERN SOCIETY Annual Fern and Exotic Plant Show and Sale. Both days 9:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m. More than 60 varieties of ferns and numerous varieties of rare plant species from around the world. Arboretum of Los Angeles County, 301 N. Baldwin Ave, Arcadia, CA. Show is free. General admission into Arboretum. Anyone is welcome to enter ferns or plants for judging or display. Call 562/864-0883 or 626/335-4600.

BALBOA PARK

SAN DIEGO JAPANESE FRIENDSHIP GARDEN

Open Tues. thru Sun. 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Docent tours with reservations. Fee. 619/232-2721.

OFFSHOOT TOURS Ranger guided. Various topics.

Saturdays 10:00 a.m. Meet at Visitors Center in Plaza de Panama. 619/235-1121. Free.

INTERPRETIVE WALKS Ranger guided. History

oriented topics. Meet at Visitors Center in Plaza de Panama. Tuesdays and Sundays at 1:00 p.m. Free.

ONGOING EVENTS

SAN DIEGO NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

Canyoneer Walks. Sat.-Sun. Sept.-June. 619/232-3821 ext 203 or www.sdnhm.org for locations, times, and directions. Free.

SAN DIEGO ZOO ORCHID ODYSSEY

Third Friday of every month from 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., showcasing orchids from Papua New Guinea, Central and South America, Africa, Thailand, Australia, China, and Vietnam. Free with Zoo admission.

QUAIL BOTANICAL GARDENS Garden Tours & Events. 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. 230 Quail Gardens Drive, Encinitas. 760/436-3036 or www.qbgardens.com. General admission.

BLUE SKY ECOLOGICAL RESERVE Walks.

Poway. Sat. & Sun. 9:00 a.m. 858/679-5469.

WALKABOUT INTERNATIONAL Local Guided Walks. Newsletter. 619/231-SHOE. Free.

CUYAMACA COLLEGE Water Conservation

Garden Landscape Seminar on 2nd Saturday of each month. 9:30 a.m. Docent tours Sat. 10:30 a.m. and Sun. 1:30 p.m. 619/660-0614. Free.

THE HUNTINGTON is open Tuesday through Friday noon to 4:30 p.m. Closed Monday and most holidays. \$10 adults, \$8.50 seniors, \$7 students (12-18), under 12 and members free. Group rate (10+) \$8. First Thursday of each month free to all visitors. 626/405-2100 or www.huntington.org.

Deadline for submission to

HORTICULTURAL CALENDAR for SEPT/OCT issue is July 15. **SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION** is not responsible for changes that are submitted late by the organizations.

GARDENING CLASSES

KATHLEEN SMITH

6 WEEK COURSE

Landscape for Southern California: Plant Choices, Design & Installation

Beginning June 20 Thurs. P.M.

Santana Adult Center, 6:00-9:00 p.m. Room 1305, 9915 Magnolia, Santee. 619/596-3657. \$15.

BETTY NEWTON

12 WEEK COURSE

Landscape: Trees, Shrubs, and Flowers, Fall Emphasis
Beginning Sept. 3 Tues. P.M.

Grossmont High School. 6:20-9:30 p.m.
Room 330, 1100 Murray Dr., La Mesa.
619/644-8218 or 619/401-4122. \$24.

Beginning Sept. 5 Thurs. A.M.

Foothills Adult Center. 8:50 a.m.-Noon. Room 12, 1550 Melody Lane, El Cajon. 619/401-4122. \$24.

JOYCE GEMMEL

8 WEEK COURSE

Fall Vegetable Gardening

Sept. 3-Oct. 22 Tues. P.M.

Foothills Adult Center. 6:00-9:00 p.m. Room 12, 1550 Melody Lane, El Cajon. 619/401-4122. \$15.

Sept. 6-Oct. 25 Fri. A.M.

Foothills Adult Center. 9:00 a.m.-noon. Room 12, 1550 Melody Lane, El Cajon. 619/401-4122. \$15.

HOYT SCHOLARS NAMED

THE ROLAND AND ETHEL Hoyt Scholarship was established in memory of Roland Stewart Hoyt, a landscape architect who was instrumental in the landscaping of Presidio and Mission Bay Parks. In 1938, he wrote *Ornamental Plants for Subtropical Regions*, a book that remains the major reference for architects and horticulturists in Southern California. Ethel Hoyt encouraged, both physically and financially, the development of flower arranging in San Diego. Both of the Hoyts were strong supporters of the Floral Association and *California Garden* magazine. Upon Ethyl Hoyt's death, the Floral Association added her name to the scholarship.

For 2002, Michelle Landis and Richard Zasueta will each receive \$500 Roland and Ethel Hoyt scholarship awards from the San Diego Floral Association. Both recipients are students at Southwestern Community College in Chula Vista.

Michelle Landis is studying to become a Landscape Architect. She hopes to transfer to Cal-Poly Pomona after completing her studies at Southwestern and then eventually become as ASLA-board-certified Landscape Architect. She spends a large amount of time volunteering with the State Department of Fish and Game, Land Management Division. She plans to apply the principles of habitat restoration and a familiarity with native and non-native invasive species to her career in landscape architecture.

Richard Zasueta has returned to college studies after gaining practical experience in his own landscaping business. He was also employed with the unified school district, becoming a senior gardener/weekend coordinator at Southwestern Community College. He has served as site manager and horticulture lab technician for the Landscape and Nursery Technology Department at Southwestern. Expert in the art of bonsai, Richard's current goal is to obtain his Associate Degree in Landscape Occupations. Eventually, he would like to teach landscape technology.

Any student enrolled in a local institution of higher learning in a horticulture related program may apply for this scholarship, year 2003. Applications may be obtained at the San Diego Floral Office, room 105, in Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. Telephone 619-232-5762 for information.

Staff

Gleanings . . .

gathered by barbara jones

WARM SOIL . . .

If you have been waiting to plant tropicals, now is the time. The soil in this area has been warm since mid-May.

This is the best time to plant bougainvillea. They are difficult to get started, but once established can stand all kinds of mistreatment — severe trimming, scant water, hot sun, etc.

This also is the time to plant avocados. There are many varieties to choose from. Decide when you want mature fruit and plant that variety, or if you have room choose several. (Most grow to 30 feet and are 30-40 feet across.) In many older homes avocados were planted for shade as well as for fruit. They are attractive trees.

Variety	Season
Anaheim	June-September
Bacon	November-January
Dickinson	May-October
Fuerte	November-April
Hass	April-October
Nabal	June-September
Reed	July-September
Zutano	October-January

The skins of Anaheim, Bacon, Fuerte, Nabal, Reed, and Zutano are green when ripe; Hass is black; and Dickinson is dark purple.

AVOCADOS IN SAN DIEGO . . .

In 1970, Alice Rainford was asked if she knew when avocados were introduced to San Diego. The following is the note she sent:

"Dear San Diego Floral Assn-

The first taste of Avocado to San Diegans — I remember a meeting of the Floral Assn and Mr. Peter Barnhart of Pasadena & Los

A. brought not more than three fruits from Mr. Huntington's Estate. He cut tiny squares not over half inch if that, a tooth pick in each and passed the tray to excited members of our association — about 1910 perhaps. I have no record but it was still a new group of enthusiasts. Mr. Barnhart's prophecy that it would be a popular tree here came true."

Alice Rainford was a protegee of Kate Sessions who taught her how to arrange flowers. When KOS gave up her flower shop in downtown San Diego, Alice became the proprietor. She was one of the earliest members of SDFA and was an active contributor to all the activities.

COMPOST TEA . . .

All old-time gardeners knew how to make Beef Tea (steer manure in water), but the newest "gardening" tea is Compost Tea.

There are several pricey kits available that include a container, a warm air bubbler, and a container of prepared compost mix. The "brewer" just adds water. Six to seven gallons of tea can be brewed up in about 24 hours. The tea is appealing to gardeners who don't use chemicals. Gardeners who have used it claim it boosts growth and helps to fight off diseases.

The kits are available in the East and should be available here soon.

ERGONOMIC TOOLS . . .

Just about any piece of equipment can be labeled "ergonomic" because there are no uniform standards for products. Ergonomic means bringing equipment in line

with your body, not conforming your body to your working environment or equipment.

In the media, there has been a lot of information about proper computer posture and placement of equipment. Industries have been getting experts to redesign all kinds of work places, not just computer related.

Ergonomics has recently gone gardening. There are some strange looking trowels, hoes, and clippers on the market — all claimed to make the job easier. There has been research done on farmers and vineyard workers to develop clippers and pruners that do not overly tire or stress the hand. The rule here seems to be to get a pair of pruners or clippers that fits your hand. It is suggested that when you go shopping, you carry a small piece of the shrub or tree you normally cut and actually try a clipper before purchasing it.

COST OF THE 1915 FAIR . . .

The central area of Balboa Park as we know it today was developed as the site of the 1915 World's Fair. In 1910, the population approved a bond issue of one million dollars. Half of the money was to be used for buildings and half was for gardens — it was to be known as a garden fair. Balboa Park Millennium Society Treasurer Don Yeckel adjusted this to present day value and that amounted to \$569 million. (That was \$25 per person adjusted to \$465 per person.) In 1913 another bond issue was approved for \$850,000 (today \$463 million). Today the total spent would be over a billion dollars. It was worth every dollar!

**NISEI FESTIVAL IN LITTLE TOKYO,
NOGUCHI SCULPTURE GARDEN-
CALIFORNIA SCENARIO
SATURDAY, AUGUST 10, 2002**

IT'S NISEI FESTIVAL TIME in Little Tokyo!! What a treat! The revitalization of this central Los Angeles area is exciting in itself! And there is certainly something for everyone.

The James Irvine Garden covers 8500 sq. ft. and is built in the tradition of Japanese gardens. Dr. Takeo Uesugi, designer of the garden, explains that it is not a copy of a garden in Japan. He found inspiration in the areas near Mt. Baldy. The feeling is Japanese but the plants are local. The self guided tour along the manicured path encompasses a 170 foot stream. This jewel is on a lower level and reached by elevator in the Japanese American Cultural Center.

The plaza fronting the JACC was designed by renowned American sculptor Isamu Noguchi and features two 10-ton sculpted basalt stones and raised beds of trees. The plaza will be a flurry of activity, including a huge plant sale.

The New Otani Hotel offers a rooftop garden complete with waterfall, pools, views, and meandering path.

Enjoy the food booths; check the shops for garden supplies and containers. There are book stores, gift shops, a new market, many restaurants, and my husband's favorite, the hardware store, which features many Japanese tools and implements.

The public art is not to be missed, or the sidewalk on First Street that chronicles the store owners/residents by decades from 1900, or the Japanese American National Museum, the outdoor tribute to Japanese American servicemen, the Museum of Contemporary Art, the architecture of the Buddhist Temple—and that's not all! Did I mention the Yamazaki Bakery? Yum-Yum!

Noguchi Sculpture Garden-California Scenario is a 1.6 acre environment by Japanese-American sculptor Isamu Noguchi. Flanked by reflective glass buildings, the mood of this garden changes with the changing sky. Elements of stone, metal, water, earth, and vegetation bring Japanese serenity into this public space.

Grab your hat, your parasol, comfortable shoes, and let's make a day of it! Lunch and endless snacking are on your own!

For more information call Tour Director Jerry Ray (619) 232-2661.

MEMORIES OF "TOUR PAST." It was a lovely day when we gathered to board one of the new buses of San Diego Charter Co./Fundiego Tours.

At the Workman and Temple Family Homestead Museum, Eldon Dunn and Craig Chyrchel guided us over the grounds and through the two houses. We received an informative, thorough tour beginning with the oldest exhibit on the grounds...a palm tree dating back to 1779! That is not a misprint! We usually equate tree age with our redwoods. The tour came to an end at the Lady Banks Rose, a bush that had covered the smaller house at one time. Experts had been brought in to trim the rose in a way to save both the bush and the house!

After lunch we entered the Fullerton Arboretum for a self guided tour. The many varieties of birds were a delight. The area set aside for community garden plots was charming. The Potting Shed offered well priced, local stock from garden ready vegetable plants to some rather unique plants, which just might have fit on the bus...with coaxing. The gift shop held an array of books, craft items, toys, and ideas.

There were surprises (a bride in veil and blue jeans), and lots of laughs. Consider joining a tour.

**NISEI FESTIVAL
IN LITTLE TOKYO,
NOGUCHI GARDEN**

SATURDAY 10 AUGUST 2002

☐ \$40 member

☐ \$45 nonmember

Lunch is on your own

Make checks payable to San Diego Floral Association

Mail to San Diego Floral Association

1650 El Prado #105

San Diego, California 92101-1622

Name(s):

Address:

Telephone Number:

PICK-UPS

- ☐ Old Navy Hospital Parking Lot on Park Blvd.
☐ Park and Ride at 710 La Costa Ave., Carlsbad

7:30AM
8:15AM

PELARGONIUM

"The Poor Man's Rose"

BY JOHN R. ALLEN

ABOUT EIGHTEEN YEARS AGO, I had just begun my career in landscaping when I received a call from a woman looking for assistance in her yard. She requested, "Flowers, bring me lots of pretty flowers." An older woman with a reputation as difficult to get along with, she would stubbornly refuse to water anything I brought. After planting flat after flat of pansies and marigolds, I was nearing wit's end. I asked her if there was anything else she really liked. She described a plant she remembered from childhood. It grew in all the window boxes in town, never got bugs, bloomed forever, and when it got old, you could just break a piece off and stick it in the ground. She affectionately called it "The Poor Man's Rose" and proceeded to point one out to me. In utter frustration, I agreed to plant several varieties of what I only knew at the time as Common Geraniums.

When I returned two weeks later, not only were the little plants still alive, they were thriving! Thus began my love affair with the geranium. Since that time, I have learned those were not geraniums at all. They were *Pelargoniums*. I have also learned that *Pelargoniums* not only pleased her, but many others as well.

While it is a member of the Geraniaceae, *Pelargonium* is a genus unto itself. It comprises some 230+ species that are mostly evergreen perennials consisting of succulents, shrubs, and sub-shrubs. Most are native to the South Western Cape region of South Africa. While dominantly from a wet winter/dry summer area, the *pelargoniums* have adapted to a wide variety of climates and habitats from mountains to deserts and have proven to be reliable plants.

Pelargoniums fall into six horticultural groups as follows:

1) Ivy-leaved = *P. peltatum* ×'s; trailing evergreens with spreads from 6" to 48"

2) Regal = *P.*

domesticum ×'s; evergreen shrubs from 12" to 48", also known as Martha Washington geraniums

3) Zonal = *P. hortorum* ×'s; derived mostly from *P. zonale* and *P. inquinans* including cactus-flowered, single- and double-flowered, fancy-leaved, Formosum hybrids, Rosebud, and Stellar varieties.

4) Scented-leaved = includes over 100 different fragrances, many of which can be used as culinary seasonings, often with astringent properties

5) Angels = ×'s between *P. crispum* (scented-leaved) and the Regal types; good compact habit from 9" to 36"

6) Uniques = a variety of other hybrids, most with Regal-type blooms, some scented, with a variety of leaf and flower shapes and sizes.

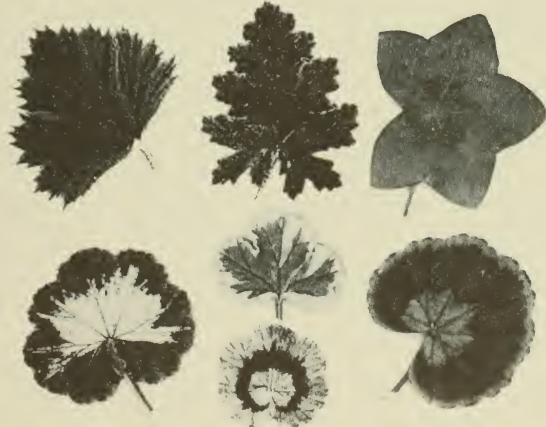
There are also many species that are becoming recognized as worthy collectibles as well as garden plants. Rudy Lime, 619/229-1634, uses many in what he has coined S.M.O.L.A (Succulents a Medium of Living Art) that is a fascinating bonsai-like art form.

The only fault that I have found with the genus as a whole is that if over watered they tend to succumb to a variety of fungal rots and blights. Though not hardy for any period of time below freezing, *pelargoniums* may easily be overwintered in pots. Most are relatively easy to propagate by softwood cuttings all year in our climate.

Five cultural keys based on those recommended by Jerry Stewart of New Leaf Nurseries, 760/726-9269, are as follows:

1) Good drainage - *Pelargoniums* do not like wet feet. If your drainage is poor consider growing in containers or planting on a mound. If in doubt as to whether or not to water error to the dry side.

2) Good air circulation - if air flow is poor, prune to open



Pelargonium leaves, reduced to seventy percent

up the plant structure, especially the tighter growing varieties. *Pelargoniums* don't really like wet arms either. This seems even more important in the cooler portions of our coastal climate.

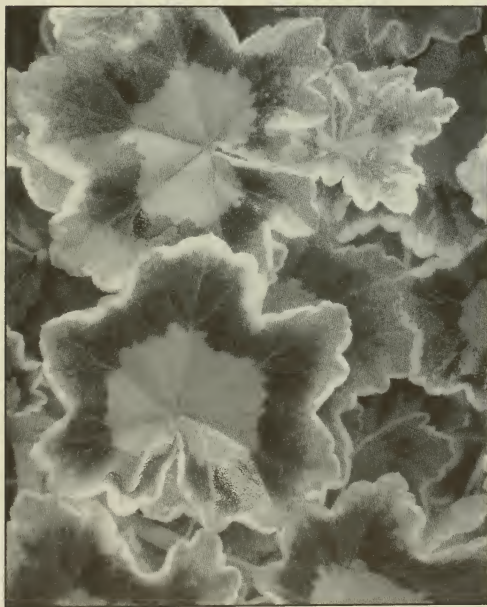
If you have had trouble with rot in the past it was probably one of these two causes. It is also beneficial to "tickle" the dead leaves and spent flowers off the plants periodically.

3) Moderate light - at least 4 hours and a little afternoon shade for the Regal varieties (all seem to benefit from a little break from the heat inland). Shading the pot also can improve root condition (pot in pot method).

4) Feeding - I personally prefer a low ratio, well-balanced fertilizer with micro-nutrients formulated for slow release. If using liquids, reduce the rate and increase frequency.

5) Pruning - Regals, Scented, Angels, and Uniques bloom in the spring on the prior year's growth. Prune as needed in early fall prior to bud set. Zonals, fancy-leaved, and ivies should be trimmed as needed for shape and individual cultural requirements throughout the year. That's about it!

With so many varieties available to fit so many different tastes, it still amazes me to this day that anyone would call a *Pelargonium* "The Poor Man's Rose".



For more information, the local chapter of the Geranium Society meets on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at Casa del Prado in Balboa Park. A key word search on the Internet can lead to some excellent sites, and of course feel free to call me, John Allen, at Pascua Farms and Nursery (619) 778-7650 or 579-8477. □

John R. Allen has an A.S. in Nursery and Landscape Technology and has been a landscaper for the past fifteen years. Most recently, he served as the Head Gardener for the Santee School District. He is also a Certified Arborist and Pesticide Applicator. Last year he retired to Pascua Farms and Nursery, a small family venture in Rancho San Diego.

Both photographs of *Pelargonium hortorum* 'Skies of Italy' by James Dery, DBF Photographic



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VICTORIA — DISTINCTIVE GIANT WATERLILY

BY PETER DARGUSCH

THE GENUS *VICTORIA* IS COMPRISED of two species of waterlilies, and a growing number of hybridized cultivars. Named for Queen Victoria of England, they are renowned for their huge buoyant leaves. In a natural habitat, the leaves can reach a size of 6 feet in diameter or more. They are the largest of waterlilies. The leaf structure is so buoyant that the immense leaves are capable of supporting up to 200 pounds.

The species, *Victoria amazonica* (formerly *V. regia*) and *V. cruziana* are tropical waterlilies native to South America. They are night bloomers producing a succession of solitary flowers during the growing season. The fragrant nighttime flowers remain open the following day and last for two days.

The *Victoria* flowers are up to 12 inches in diameter. The first-day (or first-night) flower is a pristine white, becoming a pollen bearing pink or red color by the second day. The pollen can be used to pollinate a first-day flower. After two days, the flower submerges to protect seeds that may be forming.

develop upturned edges or rims, a distinctive feature. Sharp spines are found on much of the plant, including the underside of the leaves.

Victorias do best in full sun and still water conditions. They can be grown in topsoil or topsoil with a high clay content.

There is one significant difference in cultural requirements between the two species. *V. amazonica* requires warmer water temperatures of 85°F or above. *V. cruziana* is a hardier waterlily tolerating temperatures below 70°F, though the warmer water is preferable.

Victoria 'Longwood Hybrid' was the first *Victoria* cultivar produced. It was created at Longwood Gardens in Pennsylvania by crossing the two species. This waterlily shares the *V. cruziana* trait of tolerating cooler water temperatures.

Planted in Balboa Park's large Lily Pond last year, *Victoria* 'Longwood Hybrid' grew well in San Diego. They attracted so much curiosity and attention last summer that they seemed to rival the perennially favorite *Lotus*. Two seedlings were planted in large plastic

containers containing topsoil, after water temperatures had reached well above 70°F. The tubs were placed into the Lily Pond at a depth of 1.5 feet. In nature, *Victorias* are found growing in much deeper water. Grown at a shallow depth and in containers, the size of the waterlilies is restricted, somewhat.

Victorias are very heavy feeders, especially in containers. In Balboa Park they were fertilized



Victoria 'Longwood Hybrid', first-day flower

Propagation is by seeds. As young seedlings grow, the leaves become progressively larger. They eventually

weekly with a few 10-20-10 aquatic fertilizer tablets. They grew rapidly and bloomed throughout the summer



Victoria 'Longwood Hybrid', night-bloom remains open following day

Peter Dargusch is a City of San Diego Park and Recreation Dept. gardener who takes care of the Lily Pond in Balboa Park. Photographs by the author.

months and into the fall. The leaves receded in size as temperatures cooled. They did not survive the winter. *Victorias* are treated as annuals in many areas and can be grown from seed each year.

More information on the culture of aquatic plants can be obtained by contacting the Southern California

Water Garden Society (619-465-3800). The *Victorias* are often called the "Royal Water Lilies" and are worthy of this name because of their large, dramatic flowers and leaves. Although they take a little extra care to grow in San Diego, they will reward you with exotic, tropical beauty through the summer. □

In Balboa Park, Casa de Balboa and House of Hospitality buildings face the Lily Pond, pictured growing Victoria 'Longwood Hybrid' with leaf measuring four feet in foreground, showing contrast with waterlilies in background.





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This property provides the four basic habitat elements needed for wildlife to thrive: food, water, cover, and places to raise young. It has been certified by the National Wildlife Federation as an official Backyard Wildlife Habitat site.

THE IMPORTANCE OF TAKING A GARDENING CLASS

BY LONNA LEWANDOWSKI

"IT WILL TAKE FIVE years to establish your garden."

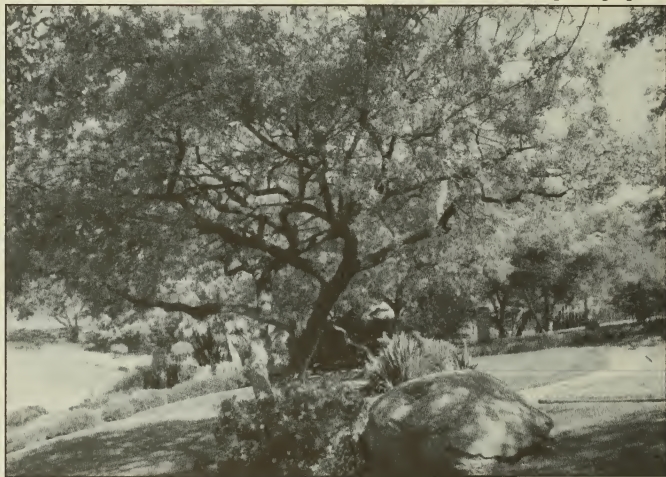
That is the quotation I remember hearing as I sat as an eager student in a local adult school. The class was entitled "Flower Gardens: Year-Round Color," and taught by Betty Newton. "Five years!" I thought to myself. "Yikes! Should I bail out now?" Cleverly, the instructor continued flipping through the slideshow of flowers, and shrubs, and trees. Colors and textures and shapes meant to pique your senses. And, as I continued being introduced to grasses, ground covers, perennials, and annuals, I found myself nestling down into my seat. I was hooked! I could not wait to get home and get to work. Simply driving home had new meaning; observing now, colors and shapes and varieties I hadn't noticed before. Life had taken on a new dimension for me. The excitement was swelling as I made my way up my own street. With all of my new information and suggestions

and ideas, what would I envision as my car crept closer to my driveway? Would there be something out of a Monet painting, perhaps, colors weaving in and out almost blending together, or, maybe a clean, crisp English garden with lots of differing shades of green, hedges short and tall, acting as the defining lines between carefully blended flowers. I stopped my car in front of my house that day. Glancing up at the home we had just built on the one-acre parcel with nothing growing except seven Engelmann oak trees, my vision faded into the reality of the dirt, boulders, and weeds. I tried not to become discouraged and overwhelmed by the challenge before me, combined with my lack of knowledge in the field of landscaping. Our homework from the gardening class was to decide what style of garden we wanted. Would it be formal or informal? Would it include lawn and shrubbery, or flowers and trees, native plants, or exotic? I thought to myself, "Yes! Yes! Yes!" I really knew only one thing at this point. It would be LARGE!

Each week of new information, photographic enticements, and challenging homework assignments

became just the right ingredients to build our confidence and creativity. We quickly learned that soil was the first place to focus. Our goal would be to create a rich loam from barren granite or heavy clay. We were taught to amend the soil before, during, and even after planting. In fact, a healthy soil and proper irrigation become the keys to any successful garden.

Visiting established gardens was another facet of the learning experience Betty Newton insisted upon. And nothing was more inspiring. A field trip would introduce us to the unlimited possibilities of landscape styles, colors, and shapes. Taking the classroom into the garden provided unique opportunities to admire and critique. The time spent sharing successes, failures, and experiences continued to prepare us for the task of creating our own gardens. Before long we had notebooks of useful information, sketches, soil tests, photographs,



Two of the seven Engelmann oaks in the author's Alpine [Calif.] front lawn have adopted the watering needed for the grass. Birds are attracted to the trees and the family's feeders.

Betty Newton

and opinions of our own. The one experience that remains turns out to be the most important, the actual "digging in," with confidence.

It has been ten years since that Tuesday morning gardening class. I am thankful I hung in there every time

I glance out my window on cold winter mornings, or sit on a bench bird-watching in the warm springtime.

Sifting through the notes and articles and photographs and experiences, I came up with my top ten tips for successful gardening.



Looking north, east of the house is a garden of herbs. The paths are important to the casual beauty. In top left of picture is a redwood tree.

Betty Newton

1.) An education in gardening allows you to go to the nursery and purchase plants with a better understanding of plant quality, vigor, and even seasons. You will have the wisdom to avoid the sale table of pretty annuals that are probably on their way out of season anyway.

2.) With every new plant you add to the garden, add also a good planter mix to continue improving the soil and a slow-release fertilizer. The extra effort given at planting time will pay off big time as your new plant matures and flourishes.

3.) To improve heavy clay soils apply gypsum annually right before the rains. Just scatter it about ½ inch thick. It does not harm existing plants as it penetrates year after year breaking down dense, heavy clay particles.

4.) Applying a covering of mulch is extremely beneficial right before fall and right before spring for many reasons. If you use compost for mulch, it can feed the plants, improve the soil, and provide a little protection from heat, cold, and dehydration.

5.) Keep a photo journal and a written journal or a calendar of what is in bloom each month, and soon you'll be able to predict what blooms when. How nice

it will be to plan events at your home around the most beautiful times. This practice also helps you decide on improvements that can be made by adding something, or maybe taking away.

6.) Beware of self-sowing perennials and the areas you plant them. They tend to have no boundaries. So, if you cannot provide one, your garden bed can be quickly overrun.

7.) If ever you cast your eye on a glorious area of color and foliage and still feel like something is missing, it is probably in need of hard-scape. If your enthusiasm got you planting before planning, go back and add something solid. Statuary, birdbaths, birdhouses, picket fences, retaining walls, gates, arbors, and benches can each lend a very important stability to the eye.

8.) Use that newfound confidence to move plants around your yard. Those photos you took can tell you if something is looking too crowded, or out of balance, or too large, or the wrong color. Of course, plants will adapt more easily to a move in cool weather rather than hot. And you do not want to mess with the soil at all if it is saturated from rains.

9.) Take a stroll through your garden daily. Appreciating the sights and sounds and smells can clear your mind after a long, busy day. This practice also may help you notice any small problems before they can become big problems. Broken irrigation pipes, plant disease or deficiencies, pests and rodents, all can get out of control and do costly damage that otherwise could go unnoticed.

10.) Attend garden tours. They're fun and informative and inspiring. You will always come away with a new idea or at the very least will have met some really friendly people.

Gardening is a respite for the soul. It can provide a slice of time when nothing else matters. You and your tools become a captive audience to the awesomeness of God's creation. Gardening also can be a source of great frustration and intimidation if you have tried a few times and failed, or if your insecurity prevents you from trying altogether. Even seasoned gardeners continue to educate themselves with classes and clubs and magazine articles. Be encouraged, there is no end to the challenge of having beautiful surroundings, just new beginnings. □

continued



This birdhouse with arbor nearby makes makes the path to the vegetable garden.

Lonna Lewandowski

Lonna Lewandowski became committed to learning how to garden after she and her husband purchased property in Alpine to build a home fifteen years ago. She gained much experience volunteering at the gardens of the Whaley House in Old Town and the Rose Garden in Balboa Park. Her home garden on 1 acre is now used for weddings, photo-shoots, and garden tours.

WEB SITE

San Diego Floral Association and this magazine now have a Web site. It was recently established, and only preliminary work has been done. Perhaps by the end of July there may be something to see. The following names may be reached by e-mail: editor, historian, information, library, membership, and president. To mail to us, put the name in front of @sdfloral.org — for example: editor@sdfloral.org —.

GARDENING AND THE OUCH FACTOR®

BY PAT PAWLOWSKI

IT IS NOT A good idea to get into a fight with a rock. Last fall I happened to be involved in a locational dispute with a small boulder—I wanted to position it several yards to the right, and the boulder wanted to stay right where it was. After a short altercation I got the rock moved but in the process I also got a herniated disc. This taught me several valuable lessons.

Lesson No. 1: ROCKY WITHOUT BULLWINKLE

Learn to appreciate the power of rocks. Several different-sized shrubs and flowering perennials positioned against a boulder can make a powerful aesthetic statement. In addition, many plants derive a cultural benefit since their roots can grow underneath the stone and thus are protected from excess heat and cold. Butterflies love to lounge upon rocks, warming up their engines so they can fly over to decorate your garden. Indeed, rocks can really rock. HOWEVER—do not try to move large ones (or even small, maybe) without help.

Lesson No. 2: TOOLS OF THE TRADE

Take advantage of the many tools and other goodies that can help you, the temporarily or otherwise disabled gardener. For example, here are just a few of the helpful, easy-to-use tools, plus other helpful items I discovered:

Reacher - If you cannot bend down to pick up that plummeting pruner, fumbled fruit, or slipped string use the 30" Pik Stik Reacher. Made of lightweight plastic, it can pick up almost anything, except a date on Saturday night. I bought mine (the reacher) at Home Depot.

Four in One Gardening Tool - If you have hand or wrist problems, Country Store (1-800-558-1013) offers the Extend-a-Hand Gardening System, which attaches to the forearm and has a right-angled handgrip with trowel, hoe, cultivator, and pruning saw attachments.

Weed Puller - The Baronet Firm Grip Weed Puller, available through the Walt Nicke Company catalog (978-887-3388), lets you pull weeds without bending your back. You shove the weeder's tip under the weed, grasp the handle and yank.

continued on page 121



Now Is the Time . . .

A CULTURAL CALENDAR OF CARE FROM OUR
AFFILIATES, UC COOPERATIVE EXTENSION,
AND CALIFORNIA GARDEN STAFF

AFRICAN VIOLETS Helen LaGamma

NOW IS THE TIME

- TO CHECK** that plants are not crowded.
- TO KEEP** violets well groomed.
- TO PLACE** pans of wet pebbles among plants to increase humidity.
- TO USE** a fan to circulate the air to prevent mildew.
- TO USE** cool light tubes if violets are under lights. If using natural lighting, place plants farther away from source.

BEGONIAS

NOW IS THE TIME

- TO REPOT** plants if needed — step up to next size container.
- TO MAKE** cuttings when trimming or pruning.
- TO GROOM** and inspect plants throughout growing season.
- TO CHECK** for mildew — spray at once for control.
- TO CHECK** for snails, slugs, and fungus.
- TO POT** rooted cuttings and leaves.
- TO CONTINUE** feeding.
- TO REMOVE** old flowers from tuberous type by snapping off the blossoms, not the stems.
- TO FEED** tuberous plants when flower buds appear. Feed one tablespoon High-Bloom and one tablespoon of fish emulsion to one gallon of water.

BONSAI San Diego Bonsai Club

NOW IS THE TIME

- TO WATER**, water, water — but not overwater. During the hot months it is best to water early in the

day. Some bonsai may need two or three waterings on hot, dry days.

TO TURN some trees for even sun exposure.

TO PROTECT some plants by moving into a shaded area out of direct sun.

TO CHECK for insects and pests — spray with a diluted spray. (Be careful with elm trees, which usually do not need spraying.)

TO MIST or spray foliage of certain bonsai, those which are humidity-loving, in the evening or early morning.

TO WAIT until September or October to transplant bonsai.

TO REMOVE excess blossoms from trees to save their strength for next year. Defoliate some of the deciduous varieties in July — not later.

BROMELIADS Mary Siemers

NOW IS THE TIME

TO PROTECT plants from burning during the hot weather by placing them under lath, shade cloth, clear fiberglass, or trees.

TO INCREASE the frequency of water according to the temperature, but do not allow the soil to become soggy.

TO CONTINUE to fertilize once a month during summer — using water soluble, high acid fertilizer. Use one-half of strength recommended on label.

TO REMEMBER to water plants one day before fertilizing.

TO CUT off shoots (pups) to make new plants while weather is warm. Remove when they are $\frac{1}{3}$ or $\frac{1}{2}$ the size of the mother plant.

TO KEEP plants clean by cutting off spent blooms and dead leaves.

CACTI & SUCCULENTS Joseph Betzler

NOW IS THE TIME

TO WATCH plants during hot weather. If they dry out too much they can shrivel and burn in the sun. Protect delicate specimens from the sun with screen.

TO WATER plants carefully. Some like to dry between waterings, others can take it wetter. Use less on the plants that are dormant.

TO FERTILIZE growing plants but do not overfeed. A good rule of thumb is $\frac{1}{2}$ strength every other watering.

TO WATCH plants for pests — especially snails. Treat immediately but be careful with insecticides.

TO CHECK for plants that need repotting and do so.
TO ENJOY your collection — take a little time to look at your plants.

CAMELLIAS

Jay Vermilya

NOW IS THE TIME

TO CONTINUE to feed cottonseed meal at the rate of 1 tablespoon per gallon-sized potted plant or up to 2 cups per large plant in ground every 4-6 weeks through mid-August.

TO WATCH for loopers, mites, and aphids. Hose off aphids, use malathion for loopers and a miticide for mites. Scales may sometimes be seen but are easily rubbed off. Orthere is an alternative for all the above.

TO MAINTAIN mulch around plants to keep roots cool and moist during hot, dry days.

TO CONTINUE regular watering. Inconsistent watering during this period is a primary cause of bud drop during blooming season.

TO START to disbud plants if fewer but larger blooms are desired. The degree of disbudding is a personal decision. Consider leaving only one bud per cluster. For show quality blooms as few as one bud per branch may be left.

DAHLIAS

Abe Janzen

NOW IS THE TIME

TO KEEP old blossoms cut back to first of leaves from the main stalk to prolong blooming.

TO DISBUD to encourage better blooms.

TO TIE canes to prevent plants breaking — use a loop for each cane.

TO CONTINUE regular watering program.

TO SPRAY for insects and mildew; control slugs and snails.

TO FEED with a 5-10-10 fertilizer.

TO CUT blossoms in late afternoon or early morning and place immediately in water.

EPIPHYLLUMS

San Diego Epiphyllum Society

NOW IS THE TIME

TO WATCH moisture — spray or mist is beneficial during hot dry weather. Spray during evening hours or early morning.

TO REPOT plants that are rootbound.

TO TAKE new cuttings.

TO KEEP plants out of full summer sun; they need

filtered sunlight and free air movement.

TO REMOVE spent blooms and unwanted “apples” to conserve the plant’s vitality.

TO PLANT new cuttings during the warm weather allowing new growth to become established during the growing season.

TO WATER hybrids during the hot summer months, spray occasionally or mist. Do not allow soil to dry out completely.

TO CONTINUE pest and disease prevention using products according to the manufacturers’ directions.

TO FERTILIZE for new growth. Use 10-10-15 strength at this time.

FERNS

San Diego Fern Society

NOW IS THE TIME

TO SPRAY for aphids and scale; keep snails, pill bugs, and slugs under control.

TO FERTILIZE plants regularly with a high nitrogen fertilizer. They are in their growing period.

TO WATER and maintain humidity by keeping the surrounding areas damp.

TO TRIM dead fronds.

TO PLANT fern spores.

TO PROTECT from the hot sun.

FRUIT TREES AND VINES

Vincent Lazaneo, Hort. Advisor, UC Coop Extension

NOW IS THE TIME

TO MONITOR soil moisture within the root zone and irrigate when soil begins to dry. Periodically apply enough water to leach salts below plant roots (3-4 feet deep).

TO SUPPORT limbs that have a heavy fruit load to prevent breakage.

TO BEGIN harvesting fruit as soon as it is ripe.

TO REMOVE fruit that is damaged or on the ground to discourage green fruit beetles and other insect scavengers.

TO PRUNE out shoots killed by fire blight on pear, apple, quince, and loquat. Make cuts at least 12 inches below (if possible) infected tissue and disinfect pruning shears between cuts.

TO KEEP ants off trees and periodically wash foliage with a forceful spray of water to promote biological control of spider mites, aphids, whiteflies, scale, and other insects.

TO INSPECT new leaves for signs of zinc and iron deficiency (yellowing between veins). Apply micronutrient spray if needed.

TO PRUNE out blackberry and raspberry canes that have borne fruit.

FUCHSIAS

San Diego Fuchsia & Shade Plant Society

NOW IS THE TIME

TO SPRAY to control insects. Orthene will control most pests: aphids, leafhoppers, caterpillars, leaf miners, thrips, and whitefly. Use manufacturers' instructions.

TO SNIP off runners for shape and new growth.

TO PRUNE lightly to encourage more fall blooms.

TO KEEP foliage misted. Spray only in the shade or early evening.

TO AVOID overwatering; keep damp, not wet.

TO FERTILIZE regularly with high phosphorus for buds and bloom.

TO REMOVE spent blooms and seed pods to encourage more and larger blooms.

GERANIUMS (PELARGONIUMS)

Carol Roller

NOW IS THE TIME

TO WATER thoroughly when plants become relatively dry. Do this before the heat of the day. Each watering should moisten the entire soil ball. Excess water should drain away. Keep foliage as dry as possible.

TO CONTINUE feeding a soluble, balanced fertilizer with micronutrients. Use at less than the recommended strength as often as needed to keep plants from developing nutritional deficiencies. Water and feed before the heat of the day. Do not feed if plants have become too dry.

TO CONTINUE pest and disease prevention, using products according to the manufacturers' directions.

TO GROOM plants, removing discolored leaves and faded flowers. The old bloom stalks on regals, scented, and similar types should be cut away with a sharp blade.

TO TAKE cuttings from zonals and ivies, if desired. Each cutting should have a healthy growing tip. Trim and insert into a moistened, sterile medium.

TO PROTECT cuttings and tender plants from the sun if temperatures are high. Move to a sheltered spot or create overhead shade. Keep summer-dormant plants dry and away from excessive heat.

TO CONTINUE to rotate pots on a regular basis in order to keep plants well shaped.

HERBS

John Noble

NOW IS THE TIME

TO PREPARE gourmet meals with fresh basil and tomatoes.

TO DRY bundles of oregano, thyme, sage, tarragon, lemon grass, rosemary, lemon balm, gotu kola, stevia, lavender, and raspberry leaf. Hang herbs in a dry, ventilated area that is protected from direct sun.

TO PRUNE back plants that are taking over pathways or smothering other plants.

TO WATER wisely. Comfrey is a great water gauge. When its leaves droop, it is time to give it and other water loving plants, like the mints, a good deep watering. Be careful not to over water your lavender, thyme, aloe, sage, rosemary, fremontodendron, and other damp-sensitive herbs.

TO MAKE herbal sun tea and to add a sprig of fresh mint when serving.

TO FREEZE borage flowers in ice cubes (pinch off sepals) for elegant cool drinks.

TO ENJOY the long days of summer in your herb garden.

IRIS

Iris Society

NOW IS THE TIME

TO SPADE and work humus into the soil to revitalize before planting rhizomes.

TO FEED plants left in the ground with a high nitrogen fertilizer — this one time only.

TO DIVIDE and replant tall bearded iris, taking only the new rhizomes attached to the outer edges of the mother clump. Dust ends of cut rhizomes with soil sulfur.

TO KEEP iris beds clean and free of old fans and weeds.

TO WATCH for aphids; use a light insecticide or a systemic.

TO CUT off spuria iris foliage, but do not dig until September.

NATIVE PLANTS

Jeanine De Hart

NOW IS THE TIME

TO RESIST the urge to over water the natives. If they have been in at least one season, watering about once every three weeks is about right. If you have perfect drainage, you can water more often. The newly-planted natives will need watering more often. **Remember:** the key is water deep and let get almost

dry before watering again. This forces the roots down to find water.

TO CHECK for the insects that come out in warm weather. One of these is mealybug (*Pseudococcus* sp.). These are attracted to *Ceanothus*.

TO SQUELCH the urge to spray and encourage the beneficial insects instead. The mealybug destroyer (*Cryptolaemus montrouzieri*) is actually the larvae of *Hippodamia convergens* (called lady beetle, lady bug, or lady bird beetle). The ants that farm the mealybug and other scale insects treat this beneficial as a mealybug and do not attack it. Isn't nature grand?

TO ENJOY the blooms of Matilija poppy. If these are given periodic deep watering, they will bloom into October. If left on their own, they will quit blooming when warm weather hits.

TO CONTINUE checking your yard for places where natives could be used. There is still time to let your favorite organization know what you would like to purchase at their fall sale.

TO HOPE we have more rain this fall and so a better show of color next spring!

ORCHIDS

Charles Fouquette

NOW IS THE TIME

TO KEEP an eye out for infestations of scale and spider mite.

TO USE the proper pesticide and keep in mind that at this time of year with low humidity and warm weather, there are continuous hatches of insects.

TO CHECK all potting mixes for good drainage. We do not want rotting potting mixes.

TO MIST and spray on hot, dry days.

TO CHECK new seedlings and community pots. Do not let them dry out or get sunburned. Dry air caused by winds from the interior will desiccate small plants.

TO PLANT any keikis (offshoots) from *Dendrobium*, *Phalaenopsis*, *Vanda*, *Ascocenda*, etc., when roots are about two inches long.

TO CHECK the root tips of growing *Phalaenopsis* and other vandaceous plants (air roots). If the tip is green and elongated, the water and humidity are about right. If the tips are white, that indicates more water is needed or more humidity is required. This often applies to other genera also.

TO HAVE most monopodial (a growth habit in which new leaves develop from the same meristem or growing point) orchids dry by nightfall, so water will not sit in the leaf axil.

ROSES

Marianne Truby

NOW IS THE TIME

TO FLOOD each basin at least twice, filling each basin with water prior to feeding. This will help reduce the salt build-up in the growing area. Deep watering is essential and lack of rain contributes to salt build up. If you are using a drip system, supplement it with deep watering on a monthly basis.

TO WASH off foliage in early morning with strong spray of water to control mites and keep leaves clean.

TO MAINTAIN beds with organic mulch to keep soil cool and friable. Some mulching materials deplete the nitrogen supply in the soil and you may wish to compensate by adding some form of nitrogen to maintain healthy green foliage. Many new products are available to assist in maintaining your roses, some good and some not so good.

TO PRACTICE "finger pruning" by removing small spurs and immature greenery that will not contribute to the growth of the plant but **WILL ENCOURAGE** unwanted insects and disease. Above all—protect all new basal growth.

TO PRUNE lightly in early August to encourage new growth that will encourage blooms into late November.

TO APPLY gypsum (calcium sulfate), an inorganic soil amendment. It does not change the pH, but added to alkaline soil it reacts with the insoluble sodium compounds to form sodium sulfate, which is soluble and can be leached out by **HEAVY** penetration. You **MUST WATER, WATER**. Sprinkle gypsum over entire bed and lightly rake in before flooding.

TO FOLLOW UP with a cup of alfalfa meal or pellets, a great root growth stimulant (available at most feed stores). Continue with your regular feeding program. Roses are heavy feeders and enjoy a change of diet. Add a handful of epsom salts to each bush at this time to enhance the green foliage. Above all, keep unnecessary vegetation from the rose by cultivation of the bed and/or mulch.

TO CHECK OUT the new varieties available and evaluate them as possible replacements or additions to your garden. Most rose ratings are based upon a nation-wide (or world-wide) study with completely diverse growing conditions and our climate often will not produce these results. If you do remove a plant, check it over to note the possibility of root gall, a white porous growth frequently appearing near the bud union, which has been caused by a careless shovel or cultivator. It is a good time to dig a large hole, replace the growing medium, and be ready for a

replacement.

TO PRESERVE old favorite varieties that may no longer be available. Often roses will start growing on their own roots as the bud union sinks below normal ground level. Some varieties that I now have growing with great vigor are my Papa Meilland, and Peter Frankfeld. Research local gardens for varieties that will do well in your area.

VEGETABLES

Vincent Lazaneo, Hort. Advisor, UC Coop Extension

NOW IS THE TIME

TO MAKE last planting of warm-season vegetables (tomatoes, peppers, eggplant, corn, beans, summer squash) in July for fall harvest.

TO PLANT seed of cole crops (cabbage, broccoli, cauliflower) in August for winter harvest.

TO COVER seed with floating row cover to protect young plants from insect pests.

TO WITHHOLD water from rhubarb and artichoke and allow plants to go dormant until fall.

TO CONTROL corn earworm, apply Carbaryl (Sevin) or *Bt* when silk first emerges, then every three days until silk turns brown.

VEGETABLES, ANNUALS

from UC Cooperative Extension Publications

NOW IS ONE OF THE BETTER TIMES IN FROST-FREE AREAS

TO PUT IN SEEDS OF: beans (snap and pole, lima in July), broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, corn (July), cucumbers (July), lettuce (head), peas, potatoes (August), summer squash — sweet alyssum, centaureas, dianthus, mignonette, annual phlox, portulaca, and Virginia stock (*Malcomia*).

BACK TO BASICS: HOW TO START SEED INDOORS

BY NATIONAL GARDEN BUREAU

GARDENING IS A WONDERFUL PASTIME and filling your garden with plants you started yourself from seeds simply doubles the pleasure. If you think growing from seed is difficult and takes too much time and equipment, the steps and tips here will dispel those apprehensions. Basically all you need to know about specific seeds is whether or not they require light to germinate and the number of days germination takes. With a light garden or a very sunny window, a few containers—purchased, or “found”—and a good germinating mix, you will be on your way.

MATERIALS YOU NEED

Containers: any shallow receptacle that holds soil, such as flats with or without individual cells, peat or paper pots, egg cartons bottoms, or halved milk cartons. For transplanting seedlings, 2½ to 4 inch diameter plastic, clay or peat pots. To ensure even moisture for seeds and save yourself time—look for self-watering seed-starting kits.

Germinating mix: commercial or homemade. Mix your own with a 50-50 combination of fine sphagnum peat moss and vermiculite.

Seed of annuals, perennials, vegetables, herbs

Plastic bags or plastic wrap

Spritzer (Mister)

Transplanting mix: A good potting soil will do, but a mix specifically formulated for young seedlings is better. The latter usually contains a coarser grade of sphagnum peat moss than a germinating mix and often includes fertilizer.

Fertilizer: balanced all-purpose fertilizer. Fertilizer labels always list the main nutrients plants need—nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium—in the same order, with numbers to indicate percentages, such as 5-10-2, 20-20-20. If you prefer to grow with organic rather than chemical fertilizers, use fish emulsion, which is very odiferous but nutritious for plants.

Plant labels

Heating cable or mat (optional)

GETTING STARTED

- 1) Wet the germinating mix thoroughly and let it drain. It should be moist but not soggy.
- 2) Fill flats or individual pots with the mix to within about an inch of the top.
- 3) Make shallow row indentations with a ruler or your

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finger in the flats. It's easier to separate seedlings when transplanting time comes if you sow in rows. Sow thinly so you do not waste seed. If using pots make shallow holes and set three to four seeds in each.

4) Check the seed packet to see if the seeds need light to germinate. If they do, press them lightly into the surface. If they require darkness, cover them with ¼ to ½ inch of mix or vermiculite and tamp it down.

5) Mist the surface with water to settle the seeds.

6) Cover the flats with a sheet of plastic wrap or set them in plastic bags. Set pots in plastic bags and close with twist ties. This keeps the mix from drying out while the seeds germinate, but check the mix occasionally and moisten if necessary by spritzing with water.

7) Place the flat in a warm bright location or in a fluorescent-light garden. Check the seed packet for specific soil temperatures for germination. Generally, seeds germinate with soil temperatures of 70-75°F.

8) When the seedlings emerge, remove the plastic covering. Seed packets give you an idea of germination time, usually seven to ten days, sometimes as long as two or three weeks.

9) Keep the mix evenly moist, not soggy. Water from the bottom by setting flats and pots in a sink filled with a couple inches of water; remove them when you see moisture on the surface of the mix.

MOVING ON

The first leaves on a seedling are cotyledons, not the true leaves. Their strange shapes usually do not look like the plant's familiar leaves. When seedlings in flats grow at least two sets of true leaves, transplant them into pots.

1) Moisten the transplanting mix and let it drain. If you use an all-purpose potting soil, add a handful of vermiculite for each quart of mix to lighten the texture.

2) Fill 2¼ inch pots about three-quarters full.

3) Use your fingers or a pencil to pick each seedling out of the flat, carefully holding each of the leaves not the stem. (Plants readily grow new leaves but not broken stems.)

4) Set the transplant in the pot, filling in around the roots with more mix and firming the mix down.

5) Place pots on a sunny—preferably south—facing windowsill or in a light garden.

GROWING WELL

Water transplants regularly from the bottom until they grow three or four inches tall. Then you can begin to water from the top, if you want.

Feed as you water by diluting a water-soluble fertilizer, such as fish emulsion, to half the strength recommended on the label. Or, feed at regular strength every week to ten days.

You do not need to move most flowering plants into larger pots before setting them outdoors in the garden. Some vegetables, such as tomatoes, produce extensive root systems and grow quickly into lush plants; transplant them at least one more time into larger pots before the weather warms up enough to put them in the garden.

To encourage compact, bushy plants, occasionally pinch off the growing tips of herbs and most flowering plants.

LET THERE BE LIGHT

Many seeds germinate best—more quickly and more abundantly—if you do not cover them with a mix when you sow.

Ageratum	Lettuce
Begonia	Nicotiana
Coleus	Petunia
Columbine	Parsley
Dill	Ornamental Poppy
Feverfew	Salvia
Gaillardia	Savory
Impatiens	Yarrow

A FEW DO'S

Know the date of the average last spring frost in your area; you need to start most plants indoors a certain number of weeks before that date. Seed packets include that information.

Give pots on windowsills a quarter turn every week so plants grow straight instead of bending toward the light.

Opt for the easiest plants to start indoors if this is your first attempt. These include basil, coreopsis, dianthus, gaillardia, gloriosa daisy, marigold, oregano, yarrow, and zinnia.

Label your seed containers as you sow.

A FEW DON'T'S

Combine different varieties of seeds in one flat unless they germinate in the same number of days.

Let seedlings in flats grow large before you transplant them. Their roots become too entwined, making it difficult to separate them without damage.

Start root vegetables indoors.

Overwater seedlings. Soggy soil promotes fungus and root rot. □

The National Garden Bureau in Downers Grove IL can be reached at:

630/963-0770, Fax 630/963-8864, Email ngbinfo@aol.com, Website www.ngb.org

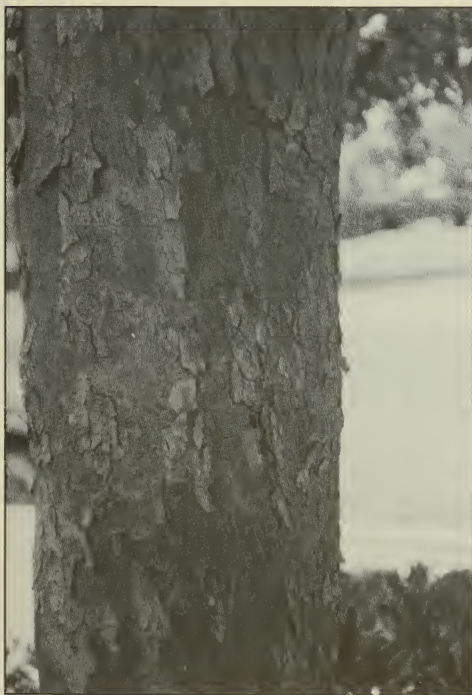
INTRIGUING TREE BARK

BY BETTY NEWTON

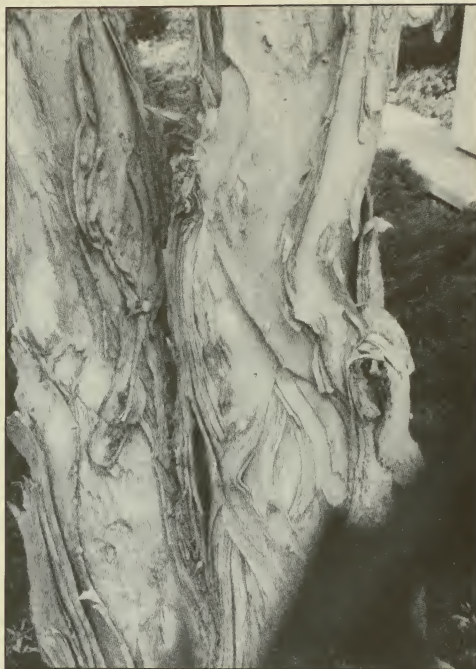
THERE IS MUCH WE DO NOT KNOW.

Dr. Alex Shigo was addressing a large group at the University of California at Riverside talking about how to prune trees so they remain healthy. (He was then chief scientist for the United States Forest Service. Shigo had thirty-five years experience cutting up and observing trees that had been systematically wounded in the name of science.) We all wanted the facts. (This big, enthusiastic, engrossing man has since retired and is a private consultant.)

Among the many things Shigo told the room full of 250 tree care workers that day (employees and supervisors for government agencies and private companies) was *that bark was always moving and changing*. (From San Diego State University classes I already knew that the wild looking, deeply ridged bark of some *Liquidambar* branches was formed by *lenticels*, gas exchange organs.)



1.



2.

The concept of moving, changing bark still gives me cause to think. We know the outside of the narrow cambium layer that is just behind the bark is the *only* place growth takes place in the trunk. Shigo identifies this as a vascular meristem. And as the tree grows and the girth of the trunk and branches increase, obviously the bark has to split or enlarge.

Some of San Diego's most caring tree pruning companies own and some employees study the book Shigo wrote since retiring, *Tree Biology*. In preparing to write something here to accompany my photos of the very different barks of four trees, I read the big pictures and large print in Shigo's *Tree Basics**, which is *almost* a cartoon version.

You do not have to understand the botany to find tree bark intriguing. Taking a picture preserves the moment of your looking and, later, lets you stare again. Here we show the bark of three common-in-California plants. The other is seldom so old or large. It was



3.

photographed at the Self-realization Fellowship Garden in Cardiff. Can you name each tree? These vary from 15 to 60 feet in height. The answers are printed at the bottom of the page.

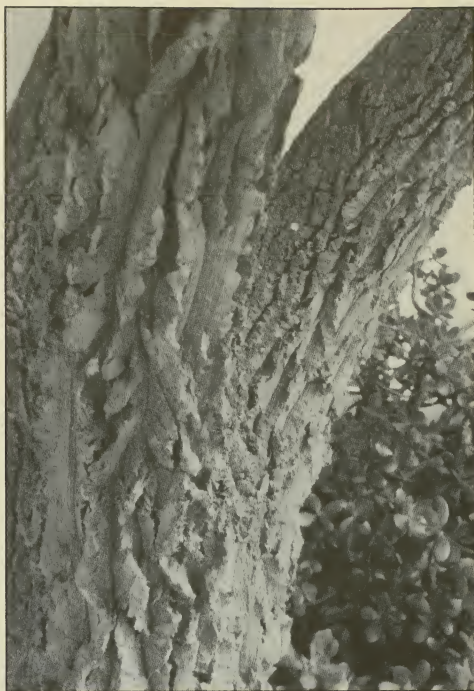
Either you are good at this and recognize some of these trees or maybe you will pause a moment under the next interesting tree you pass and stare — mostly for your soul.

**Tree Basics* is available from Shigo and Trees, Associates, P.O. 769, Durham, NH 03824-0769. □

Betty Newton teaches for Grossmont Adult Education. Photographs by the author.

Tree Names

1. *Podocarpus*, species unknown 2. *Melaleuca quinquenervia* (*M. viridiflora* var. *rubriflora*,) cajeput or paperbark tree 3. *Ulmus parvifolia*, Chinese elm 4. *Nolina recurvata* var. *intermedia* (*Beaucarnea recurvata*), ponytail palm



4.

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The society meets the first Tuesday of every month at Casa del Prado in Balboa Park. Cultural classes start at 6:30 p.m. in the library, followed by the regular meeting at 7:30 p.m. in room 101. Refreshments, orchid display, and an orchid raffle follow the meeting.

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THE CITY'S GREEN SECRET

BY ANGELEE MULLINS, STEPHEN GREALY, AND NICOLE HALL

AS YOU MIGHT EXPECT, trash is a big business at the City of San Diego's Miramar Landfill, but it's not the only thing that keeps this place moving. It's also a recycling center where you donate your old appliances for reuse, drop off your aluminum cans for cash, or simply get rid of your yard waste and help produce one of the City's best kept secrets...*an abundant supply of high quality mulch, compost, and wood chips.*

WHAT IS IT?

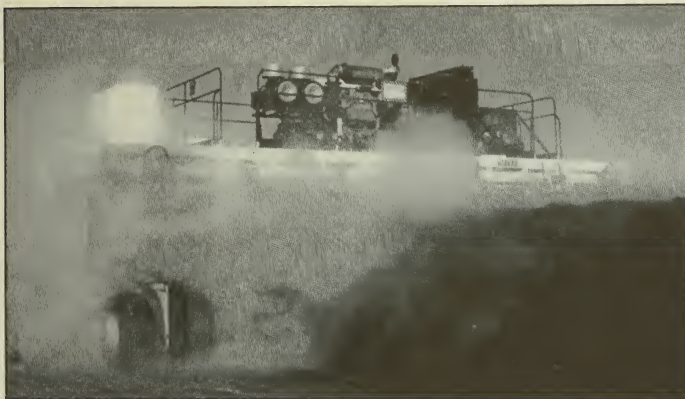
Mulch is mainly used as a top-dressing and can help suppress weeds, control dust, prevent erosion, conserve water, and protect plant roots. Compost is used as an

The mulch is produced in a 15-day process in which the material is kept above 131°F to kill weed seed and other pathogens remaining in the material. Compost remains in the process for an additional 45-60 days until mature, and it is then sifted through a half-inch screen that separates the larger pieces from the screen product.

HOW TO USE IT?

Mulch: This is best used as topsoil dressing because it helps to reduce water loss, suppress weeds, control dust, prevent erosion, and protect root systems. Just spread 3 inches of mulch around the base of plants and shrubs, keeping it from touching plant stems or trunks.

Compost: In San Diego, where the soil quality is poor, mixing compost in with the soil is one of the best things you can do for your yard and garden. Incorporate 1 to 2 inches of compost 4 to 6 inches deep into the soil and irrigate the area twice before planting. You also can use compost for top-dressing planters by just spreading 3 inches of compost around the base of plants and shrubs, keeping it from touching plant stems or trunks. For potting mixes, 2 parts of compost can be mixed with 1 part coarse sand, 1 part vermiculite, and 1 part peat moss.



The Scarab machine turning a row of compost

amendment to improve soil texture and increase nutrient and water holding capacity.

HOW IS IT MADE?

Mulch and compost are made by grinding landscaping material into small pieces, placing it in windrows, and turning and watering continuously. Residential and commercial landscaping green waste, (which is free of fibrous greenery such as succulents, palm trees and fronds, banana plants, and birds of paradise) is the main component of the mulch and compost. Fibrous greenery is not used because its coarse texture is damaging to the grinder blades. Tree trucks and branches are accepted in the program but should not exceed 10 feet in length or 6 inches in diameter. Wood scraps are also accepted but do not include particle or chip board, or any chemically treated or painted wood.

IS QUALITY AN ISSUE?

The City of San Diego has stringent quality control measures to produce high quality compost at the landfill greenery. While compost is continually tested to ensure that levels of bacteria and heavy metals are kept in check, recently we have addressed the issue of Clopyralid contamination.

Clopyralid is a broad leaf (clover, dandelion, star thistle, etc.) herbicide that does not break down in the composting process as other herbicides. It persists indefinitely, a quality that is desirable in an herbicide, but undesirable in compost. Although it is not harmful to humans or animals, certain types of plants are sensitive to this herbicide in minute quantities, even at 3 parts per billion. The most sensitive to the herbicide are legumes, plants in the nightshade family (tomatoes, potatoes, peppers), and plants in the composite family (sunflowers, daisies, petunias).

Past tests have shown that the Clopyralid levels at Miramar range between six to 11 ppb. Although the most recent tests now show that no Clopyralid is present, the City continues to monitor Clopyralid levels and is working to inform landscapers, golf courses, and other facilities that may use herbicides containing Clopyralid about the threat to our compost quality. As a precaution, the City has advised these groups not to use the product if they bring their grass clippings into the landfill greenery. The City is also working with the State legislature to ban the uses of Clopyralid in California.

HOW TO PICK IT UP, AND WHAT IS THE COST?

Mulch is free to San Diego residents at the Miramar landfill. A loading fee of \$25 will be charged for large quantities of mulch loaded into three-axle vehicles. Compost is free to residents if self-loaded. If loaded by landfill staff, compost is \$8 per cubic yard. A bulk rate discount of \$4 per cubic yard is available for customers buying 10 or more cubic yards of compost at one time. Wood chips are sold at \$8 per cubic yard. Delivery is also available for bulk purchases of 10 cubic yards of material, or more, at the cost of \$55 per hour.

WHEN IS THE GREENERY OPEN?

The Miramar landfill is open from 7:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, and on weekends the landfill opens at 7:30 a.m. The Miramar Landfill is located at 5180 Convoys just off I-52.

For more information about the landfill and the availability of greenery products, please call 858/573-1418. For information regarding the products, delivery, and bulk rate discounts, please dial 858/492-5019. Information also can be found when you visit the City of San Diego web page at: www.sannet.gov/environmental-services/miramar/index.shtml □

Angelee Mullins is a Recycling Specialist with the City of San Diego Environmental Services Department. Stephen Grealy is her supervisor, and Nicole Hall is the Public Information Officer for the Department.

"Gardening and the Ouch Factor" continued from page 111

Spade - This has a smaller blade than the standard shovel, is lighter and easier to use for those with limited strength. I use mine to weed, cultivate, and threaten bunny rabbits.

Pruning Shears - Power to weak persons! Ratchet shears and pruners enable those with a weak grip to get the job done.

Containers - Garden stores, catalogs, and funky

furniture galleries all offer scads of boxes, jars, urns, and other plantable containers. Ikea sells wooden flower boxes on legs, which would be easy to tend for gardeners in wheelchairs.

Reference book - *Accessible Gardening for People with Physical Disabilities* by Janeen R. Adil blossoms with helpful suggestions for gardeners who are hurting. It also includes an excellent list of resources, which brings us to our next item:

Gardening Catalogs - Let your fingers do the hard work. Instead of driving to the store, parking, walking, selecting the item, standing in line for what seems like hours, dragging the item to your car, and meanwhile forgetting where you parked it, then getting caught in rush hour traffic, just procure some catalogs and order from them. It's 10000000 times easier.

Lesson No. 3: GENTLE GREENERY

Grow plants that offer multiple benefits yet are easy to take care of when you are not in tiptop shape. If it is hard for you to get around, you might decide to grow your plants in containers. If so, you must first figure out where the container (or containers) will be placed. Most plants have specific cultural requirements involving amount of sun (or none), moisture, soil quality, and so forth.

Next, determine what it is you want to plant, either by consulting a nurseryperson or obtaining a book like *Sunset's Container Gardening* by the Editors of *Sunset Books* and *Sunset Magazine*. Reading a gardening book and planning the garden can be a fun operation in itself.

Below is a tiny sampling of many easy-to-grow plants that provide more than one benefit:

Herbs - You can't go wrong. Many herbs are naturally small plants, so you can grow a large variety in a small space. An arrangement of herb-type plants can look wonderful in a container. There are herbs with lovely smells, herbs with lovely flowers, and herbs with interesting textures. You can use herbs in preparing succulent dishes and various types of beverages. Herbs attract beneficial and beautiful insects like butterflies and ladybugs, too.

Vines - A nice annual vine is nasturtium (*Tropaeolum majus*). Flowers come in warm colors of yellow and orange. You can put them in salads, and hummingbirds and butterflies take nectar from the flowers. The scarlet runner bean (*Phaseolus coccineus*), another annual, sports bright red flowers and is a hummingbird favorite. After the flowers fade, you can eat the beans. One of the best all-around perennial vines is passionflower vine (*Passiflora* sp.), with its exotic

flowers. Other perennial climbers include trumpet vine (*Campsis radicans*), which has huge trumpet-like flowers, and honeysuckle (*Lonicera* sp.), with its fragrant tubular flowers.

Annuals - These include floss flower (*Ageratum* sp.), sweet alyssum (*Lobularia maritima*), petunia (*Petunia* sp.), and bush-type nasturtium (*Tropaeolum majus*). There are dozens of others. Remember that annuals usually die off after their season ends, and you will need to replant the next year.

Perennials - Among the best are asters (*Aster* sp.), daylilies (*Heemerocallis* sp.), heliotrope (*Heliotropium* sp.), monkey flower (*Mimulus* sp.), shasta daisy (*Chrysanthemum* sp.) and milkweed (*Asclepias* sp.).

Natives - There are many Southern California natives, ranging from *Achillea millefolium* to *Zauschneria californica* that are suitable for containers. To obtain a list, contact Tree of Life Nursery (949-728-0685) or Las Pilitas Native Plant Nursery (760-749-5930).

Vegetables - Many varieties of tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers, et al. will grow well in containers.

Shrubs and trees - In our climate, dwarf citrus look good year round and bear fruit. Flowers smell nice too. Pineapple guava (*Feijoa sellowiana*) is a small graceful tree with edible fruit and flowers.

Container water garden - Water is soothing to the soul, and there are varieties of water lilies, iris, and other plants that will grow happily in a water-filled jar or urn.

Lesson No. 4: WILDLIFE WONDERS

Learn to recognize and appreciate the many varied and very interesting winged life forms that will come to an easy-care, yet wildlife-friendly garden. All the plants mentioned in Lesson No. 3 will attract some kind of wonderful bug or bird. We all like *Lepidoptera* (butterflies) but how many people are truly entranced by a green lacewing or a syrphid fly? Many non-lepidopteran insects are beautiful and entertaining. To wit: For those gardeners who enjoy sex and violence, there is (1) the spectacle of butterflies mating—discreetly behind modestly placed wings, of course; and (2) the sight of a syrphid fly larva lunching on an aphid, holding the little hoodlum aloft as it dines.

Lesson No. 5: GUTSY GARDENERS

Never give up your gardening. It's good for you physically, mentally, emotionally, and maybe spiritually, too. Somewhere, somehow, someday, you can do it. □

Text copyright by Pat Pawlowski, who is a writer/lecturer and the wildlife garden designer for Animated Gardens, 619-390-9399.

A DESERT-LIKE GARDEN IN A CONTAINER

BY ROBERT HORWITZ

SOMETIMES GARDENS NEED A small intimate easy to care for garden within a garden that takes little care but radiates satisfaction to the owner every time the gardener looks at it. By assembling this garden in a round shallow container that is about six inches deep, one can plant a goodly number of desert-like plants. The main plantings could be made of *Echeveria* varieties that will provide a broad range of texture and color. On top of this, the finished garden is portable and is almost maintenance free.

For colorful blossoms and a light green foliage color, choose *E. derenbergii* with its flat fleshy leaves radiating out from around a center. For a darker color, there is *E. imbricata* that has purplish leaves. The *E. elegans* has small clumps of leaves and in the late spring there will be many flower stalks about 6 inches tall with orangy-red flowers at the tops.

For contrast both in height and color, one could plant a small jade plant (*Crassula ovata*) about a foot tall. There are small leafy bromeliads that have wonderfully colored leaves that make a good match to the jade plant and *Echeverias*.

You can arrange these plants in many different ways, such as in a circular pattern, cross hatched, or in random rows. It is best not to arrange them too formally, but arrange them so that the plants contrast well with each other.

The planting soil should be fairly sandy loam that will drain well and that is not too fertile. These are desert-type plants and do best in desert-type soil. The container should have good drainage. Water only when the soil is almost dry and try to keep the container garden in the sun as much as possible.

For those of you who live in a condo or apartment where the garden space is limited to a balcony or ledge, this type of garden is ideal. You can assemble the garden any time of the year as season is not a strong element. The variations on what to plant are numerous also, as you could choose a variety of small cactus, some trailing succulents or a small agave. □

Robert Horwitz is a retired space engineer who gardens in the Point Loma section of San Diego.

KATE SESSIONS BOOK

The complete collection of writings by Kate Sessions in *California Garden* magazine from 1909 until 1939 is available at the San Diego Floral Association in Room 105, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. This book contains a plant index, and many changes in plant names, particularly scientific, have been noted. Often known as "The Mother of Balboa Park," Kate Sessions for over fifty years devoted her life to helping people grow beautiful plants in San Diego. She tells how in this book.

ROLAND HOYT BOOK REPRINT

Ornamental Plants for Subtropical Regions by Roland Stewart Hoyt has been reprinted by his sons. This book has been available only at rare book stores until now (going rate \$65). Bill and Mike have donated the new books to San Diego Floral Association. Ten dollars of each book sale will be added to the scholarship fund established in the name of Ethel and Roland Hoyt. The books are available at office above.

Half the book is a written description and sketch of each plant. In recent years, many scientific names have been changed, but there is an updated nomenclature at the end of the book.

The Complete Writings of Kate Sessions 1909-1939

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Book Reviews

MINTS; A Family of Herbs and Ornamentals

Barbara Perry Lawton

Portland, Timber Press, 2002, 239 pages, 61 color photos, 46 line drawings, 5 b&w photos, 6" x 9", hardcover, \$27.95

The mint family (Lamiaceae) is so far flung that plants in a garden devoted only to these genera would easily vary in size, texture, and color. Better than that, such a garden would surely be hugely aromatic, as that is the family trait most universally endearing.

This straight-forward text with botanical drawings and color photos explores the many aspects of plants known commonly as mints. Biblical references and Shakespearean quotations introduce the history of mints, with excursions into the "language of herbs" and the development of physic gardens and herbals, the earliest research into the medicinal uses of plants. A chapter on the medicinal, culinary, and household uses of mints includes many old remedies that are still in favor, especially for insect repellents and air fresheners. Food flavoring and the beauty of herbs in garden design are also described.

Herbal mints, those especially valued for their culinary, medicinal, and cosmetic uses are covered in a separate chapter, focusing mostly on the genus *Mentha*. These hardy plants include hyssop, lavender, basil, oregano, and rosemary, all popular in Southern California gardens.

A chapter on ornamental mints includes *Monarda*, *Coleus*, even *Ajuga*, which, even with their tell-tale square stems and opposite leaves, many gardeners may not have recognized as members of the mint family. Moving on to a chapter on mint botany, we learn that here are two hundred twenty-one genera and over three thousand species, so it is no wonder that some have escaped common identification.

The second half of the book is a "Catalog of Mints", alphabetically arranged with descriptions of the habit, origin, and hardiness of each species. The language here is basically botanical but a glossary at the end of the book clarifies the descriptive terms. This in itself would be of

great value to neophyte gardeners.

Reviewed by Marge Howard-Jones

GARDEN OPEN TODAY

Beverley Nichols with drawings by William McLaren

Portland, Timber Press, 2002, 252 pages, 44 b&w illustrations, 5½" x 8", hardcover, \$24.95

First published in 1963, this little gem of a book has become a classic. Never mind that it's all about gardening in England, mentioning resources that, like the author, are no longer on this plane of existence, it is still a great "read," full of good humor, entertainment, and style.

A prolific writer of fiction and non-fiction, plays, children's stories, and six autobiographies, Nichols was also a keen gardener, whose books on the subject are his best known works. In true Brit fashion, his voice is one of quiet opinion, rather than authority. As he says, "the hand of Nature" affects all gardens and "the art of gardening is simply. . . to hold that hand and. . . to clasp it in friendship." To this end, he describes his own pleasures and pitfalls in the garden, enlivened with reminiscences that sometimes include a bit of delicious name-dropping and witty observations.

Nichols was a believer in gardening rules only to a point, after which he's all for instinct and intuition. He suggests that inexplicable garden failures can be attributed to mismatched wave lengths between plant and gardener. He was firm in his conviction that every garden needs a water feature of some kind, whether a pond or bucket to reflect the sky, attract birds, or, hopefully, nurture water flowers. He also has a lot to say about flower arranging, and the advantage of age for female gardeners (... "young women have too much else on their minds to pay attention to garden details!")

The reader will find small nuggets of practical advice, like submerging drainpipes in a fish pond to thwart marauding birds. Mostly this is a book to read for the pure pleasure of encountering a gentleman of the old school, who carries his wisdom with grace and humor. Fanciful illustrations from the original edition are a perfect accompaniment to the light-hearted text.

Reviewed by Marge Howard-Jones

DIRR'S TREES AND SHRUBS FOR WARM CLIMATES An Illustrated Encyclopedia

Michael A. Dirr

Portland, Timber Press, 2002, 445 pages, 1,438 color photos, 8½" x 11" hardcover, \$69.95

The "warm climates" in this title refer mainly to the southeastern portion of the United States, but local gardeners will find much of interest in this large handsome book. Especially appealing are the wonderful color photos

that clearly illustrate the form and colors of their subject.

The author-photographer begins with a tour of his home garden in Georgia, with before and after views, which provide total credibility for his practical experience and scientific expertise. His encyclopedia of more than four hundred plants is artfully arranged to provide close-up and full length views to augment the very complete plant descriptions. Included are many Zone 10 species, but even those identified as Zone 9 do grow in parts of San Diego county. It should be noted, however, that many species shown seem larger, and showier, than what are generally seen here.

Pages of lists describing design and cultural characteristics of trees, shrubs, needle evergreens, palms, vines, and ground covers follow the main portion of the book. These include flower color, fall color, fragrance, and fruit. Perhaps the most useful for local gardeners is the guide to the best time to prune shrubs, depending on whether they flower on new growth or old wood.

Tree barks with interesting textures are another category, while tree shape, weeping or columnar, is another. A list of trees most frequently found in nurseries is followed by one of those the author feels are underutilized and deserve greater consideration. He also provides lists of trees and shrubs according to their size, flowering sequence, tolerance to compacted soils, drought and heat, moist soils, salt, and shade, all of which could be applied in our area.

Reviewed by Marge Howard-Jones

THE JEPSON DESERT MANUAL: Vascular Plants of Southeastern California

Margaret Wetherwax, Managing Editor

Berkeley, University of California Press, 2002, 640 pages, 128 color photos, 1,000+ line drawings, 2 maps, 7" x 10", softcover, \$35

The 1993 edition of the Jepson Manual, (Univ. of Calif. Press, 1400 pages, edited by James C. Hickman) is in the process of being reproduced in subsections. This "Desert" manual represents the first of additionally promised smaller publications to cover limited areas of botanical interest rather than the entire California flora.

A little history: the first Jepson manual, published in 1925 with 1238 pages, had only one listed author, Willis Linn Jepson. It was the first to cover the flora of California. The second Jepson (1993 above) listed one editor, five columns of authors, and 5800+ species of plants.

This new "Desert" manual is intended to be more portable and cover in more detail the plants of California desert regions. Included are color plates of plants that most of us will never see as one must be there at the right time after a wet season and just when they are in bloom.

Although this is a desert manual it contains plants found in the coastal areas, i.e. *Euphorbia misera*. The listing of the genus *Mimulus* covers twenty-one of the sixty-three listed in the 1993 statewide manual. There are 2267 of the states 6200+ species of plants native to California, so, you see, this is more than a "Desert" manual, it is an excellent addition to the botanical library of anyone or to a comprehensive field manual collection.

Reviewed by Don Miller

A FIELD GUIDE TO TROPICAL PLANTS OF ASIA

David H. Engel and Suchart Phummai

Portland, Timber Press, 2002, 280 pages, 390 color photos, 6" x 9", softcover, \$19.95

This field guide is essentially a picture listing of plants found in Southeast Asia: Thailand, Vietnam, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Myanmar (Burma), Laos, Cambodia, southern China, and Taiwan. Both native and introduced plants are included, since some introductions are so widespread a field guide without these would be of limited help.

Over three hundred species are included divided into sections by trees, shrubs, vines, and groundcovers and bedding plants. They then are divided by flower, foliage, and fruit (when appropriate). The flowers in each section are divided by color. Many people find it easier or quicker to find a picture this way. One index includes botanical names and common names in six languages, including English; this feature alone would make it a guide worth carrying on a trip to Southeast Asia.

Reviewed by R. Cox

SUMMER BLOOMING BULBS

Beth Hanson, Editor

Brooklyn, Brooklyn Botanical Garden, 2001, 111 pages, color throughout, 6" x 9", softcover, \$9.95

Bright color photos embellish this small volume, whose contents are focused on the four-season gardening typical of the East Coast. The book is a series of articles, beginning with the basics of bulbous botany. This would be instructive for gardeners anywhere. Then comes the how-to's of buying and caring for the variety of species shown; many are quite tender and would never survive in Southern California, while some like cannas and day lilies grow year-round in local gardens. Sections on design ideas for bulb gardens and container plants have a more universal appeal. A listing of bulbs that naturalize is given by area, including the Arid West and the Central Pacific Coast. The second half of the book is an encyclopedia of summer blooming bulbs.

Reviewed by Marge Howard-Jones



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